

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02

L-03 DHA-02 ACDA-07 EB-07 /095 W

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P 181925Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4094

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

AMCONSUL FLORENCE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AORG, UNESCO, PORG
SUBJECT: UNESCO "INFORMATION GROUP" MEETING: DIS-
CUSSION OF DRAFT DECLARATION OF MASS MEDIA
PRINCIPLES

REF: STATE 188615

1. AT REQUEST OF US PERMDEL, UNESCO "INFORMATION GROUP" (IG) MET AUGUST 13 TO CONSIDER COMMON TACTIC OF POSTPONING CONSIDERATION OF SUBJECT DRAFT DECLARATION AT THE 19TH GENCONF OF UNESCO. IN ADDITION TO US, MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY AUSTRIA, AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, CANADA, FRG, IRELAND, JAPAN, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, SPAIN (CHAIRMAN), SWITZERLAND, AND UK. NOTABLY ABSENT WERE FRANCE, TURKEY AND GREECE.

2. ACTING PERMREP WARVARIV PRESENTED USG VIEWS ON SUBJECT MATTER ALONG LINES OF REFTEL, MAKING CLEAR THAT IT WAS NOT OUR INTENTION, AT THIS TIME, TO GO INTO SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF DRAFT DECLARATION, BUT RATHER TO FOCUS ON BEST TACTIC OF HOW TO ACHIEVE POSTPONEMENT OF CONSIDERATION OF SUBJECT DRAFT DECLARATION IN ORDER TO GAIN TIME NEEDED TO RESOLVE EXTREMELY WIDE DIFFERENCES OF VIEW RE PRESENT DRAFT, AND THAT THIS WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT 19TH GENCONF TO ACHIEVE. HE STRESSED US BELIEF THAT DG M'BOW WOULD PERSONALLY WELCOME POSTPONEMENT, AND MAY INFLUENCE THIS EFFORT, EVEN THOUGH ONE SHOULD NOT EXPECT THAT DG WILL UNDERTAKE HIMSELF TO INTERVENE OPENLY IN FAVOR OF POSTPONEMENT.

3. ACTING PERMREP ALSO OUTLINED US ASSESSMENT ATTITUDE COUNTRIES WHICH EITHER ABSTAINED FROM OR DID NOT
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PARTICIPATE IN FINAL VOTE AT DECEMBER MEETING ON SUBJECT DECLARATION. HE CONCLUDED THAT IN USG VIEW TO ACHIEVE POSTPONEMENT TWO STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN WITHOUT DELAY: (A) INFORMING DG M'BOW ABOUT OUR JOINT SERIOUS CONCERNS RE SUBJECT MATTER, HOPING THAT HE MIGHT LEND HIS INFLUENCE TO POSTPONEMENT EFFORT, AND (B) ENLISTING SUPPORT FROM AS MANY MEMBER STATES AS POSSIBLE FOR THE EFFORT, INCLUDING INDUCING THEM TO WRITE TO THE

DIRECTOR-GENERAL STATING CASE FOR POSTPONEMENT. HE STATED THAT ON OUR PART, U.S. WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE DEMARCHE TO COUNTRIES LISTED IN PARA. 9 OF REFTEL, AND HOPED THAT OTHER IG MEMBERS WOULD DO THE SAME IN COUNTRIES LISTED IN LAST SENTENCE OF REFPARA.

4. ENSUING DISCUSSION, IN WHICH CANADA, UK, BELGIUM, SWITZERLAND, NORWAY, FRG AND NETHERLANDS, IN ADDITION TO US PARTICIPATED, INDICATED THAT THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT POSTPONEMENT WOULD BE PREFERRED TACTIC. THOSE PRESENT ALSO AGREED TO RECOMMEND TO THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS THAT POSTPONEMENT SHOULD BE COMMON GOAL.

5. HOWEVER, SOME (NOTABLY BELGIUM, SWITZERLAND AND NORWAY) HAVE EXPRESSED SOME RESERVATIONS RE APPROACH TO DG M'BOW ON GROUNDS THAT THE LATTER MAY INTERPRET THIS

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PRS-01 USIA-06 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02

L-03 DHA-02 ACDA-07 EB-07 IOE-00 /095 W

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P 181925Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4095
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
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AS "PRESSURE TACTIC" AND RESENT IT. THEY THOUGHT THAT
THE "NEGOTIATING GROUP", TO BE SET UP AT THE OUTSET OF
THE GENCONF, MIGHT BE THE FORUM TO ACHIEVE POSTPONEMENT.

6. IN CONNECTION WITH U.S. IDEA TO APPROACH SELECTIVE
COUNTRIES FROM THE THIRD WORLD, SUGGESTIONS WERE MADE
THAT STRESSING THE NEGATIVE (POSTPONEMENT) MAY NOT
BE ENOUGH. WE CAN RALLY THEIR SUPPORT MORE READILY IF
THE WEST WOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE POSITIVE SUGGESTIONS,
I.E. STRESSING ADVANTAGES TO THESE COUNTRIES IN ARRIVING
AT BETTER AND MORE BALANCED THAN DECEMBER TEXT.
WHILE DEFENDING OUR (AND UNESCO CONSTITUTION) BASIC
PHILOSOPHY RE FREEDOME OF SPEECH, RIGHT TO COMMUNICATE,
IMPORTANCE OF FREE FLOW, ETC., WE SHOULD ALSO BE PRE-
PARED TO RECOGNIZE THE PROBLEM OF MEDIA DIS-
EQUILIBRIUM AND STRESS TO LDC'S THAT SOLUTION LIES NOT
IN RESTRICTIVE DECLARATIONS BUT THROUGH ASSISTANCE
PROVIDED TO THE LDC'S TO BUILD UP THEIR OWN COMMUNI-
CATION CAPABILITIES.

7. SOME (ESPECIALLY FRG AND SWITZERLAND) FELT THAT LDCS
HAVE LEGITIMATE COMPLAINT IN THIS GENERAL AREA OF

COMMUNICATION. THEY CITED THAT ONLY 2,5 MILLION DOLLARS IS RESERVED IN PROGRAM AND BUDGET FOR 1977-78 (19 C/5 DOCUMENT) FOR THIS IMPORTANT ACTIVITY AND SUGGESTED THAT, WITHOUT INCREASING UNESCO BUDGET, THE WEST SHOULD PUBLICLY DECLARE ITS READINESS TO COOPERATE WITH THE LDC'S IN SHARING ITS EXPERTISE AND INFORMATION IN THIS AREA.

8. FRG SUGGESTED THAT AN APPROPRIATE DRAFT RESOLUTION ALONG THESE LINES MIGHT BE IN ORDER AT 19TH GENCONF. FRG (PETERSEN) ALSO SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PREPARED TO ELABORATE THE FRG ALTERNATIVE TEXT THEY

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PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED TO IG (AVAILABLE IN DEPT.).

9. EVEN THOUGH THE OBJECTIVE WAS TO FOCUS THE MEETING ON PROCEDURAL QUESTION (I.E. POSTPONEMENT), NETHERLANDS FELT THAT IT MIGHT BE IMPOSSIBLE TO DELETE THE ITEM FROM THE AGENDA AND REMINDED THOSE PRESENT TO BE PREPARED FOR A FULL-SCALE DEBATE AND HAVE READY A COUNTER-TEXT AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

10. IN CONCLUSION, IT WAS AGREED THAT U.S. (AHD CLEARLY PREFERRED BY OTHERS PRESENT AT THE MEETING) TACTIC WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO CAPITALS FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL, I.E. CAREFUL APPROACHES TO DG M'BOW AND TO SELECTIVE LDC'S IN SUPPORT OF THE POSTPONEMENT STRATEGY, ALONG LINES IN PARA. 2 AND 3 ABOVE.

11. IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE NEXT IG MEETING WILL BE CONVENED BY US PERMDEL (ROTATING CHAIRMAN) ON SEPTEMBER 3, 1976.

12. DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE BEFORE ABOVE DATE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFORMATION MEDIA, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS24079
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760317-0783
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760842/aaaabkln.tel
Line Count: 264
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 188615
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNESCO "INFORMATION GROUP" MEETING: DIS- CUSSION OF DRAFT DECLARATION OF MASS MEDIA PRINCIPLES
TAGS: AORG, PORG, UNESCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006